

# **Agricultural Censuses in Latin America and the Caribbean: Some Lessons from Experience**

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Latin America and Caribbean countries have made a strong effort to accomplish the taking of Agricultural Censuses following the World Programme promoted by FAO. In comparison with previous decades the present one (1996-2005) shows exceptional improvements in agricultural censuses in the area. In this paper, a brief update of the situation is done. At the same time, some problems in international comparisons are analysed and practical solutions to particular problems are presented. Finally, the 2001 Agricultural Census in Nicaragua is presented as a study-case. This census was chosen because of some particularities in its planning and execution and the completeness of the exercise which included the practical implementation of Zarkovich's methodology for a post enumeration survey on census coverage, its use in building a multiple frame for periodical agricultural surveys and four special in-deep studies derived from it.